

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 33 (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit comprising:

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an article bay including article shafts arranged next to one another and one on top of another, the article shafts being sloped with respect to horizontal, articles to be commissioned being storeable on said article shafts, each of said article shafts having a stopping and dispensing article device at one of its longitudinal ends that is a lower end and can be filled with new articles at its other, higher longitudinal end on a bay filling side;

~~an article bay;~~

a traveling bay-storage and retrieval unit associated with said article bay, said traveling bay-storage and retrieval unit having an article-handling device that is selectably movable in three dimensions into a plurality of positions along the article bay (said article handling device 10 including a stack-of-articles support to be filled with a row of articles from a supply bay with shafts sloped with respect to horizontal and to fix a press-in stack of articles without a 12 magazine by clamping from a side along the stack of articles), said stack-of-articles support can be positioned in an essentially vertical position together with the ~~with a correspondingly vertical stack of articles picked up in the support~~ at each higher longitudinal end of said article shaft on said bay filling side, (said stack-of-articles support having one of a lower or upper 16 individual article ejector, which is displaceable in a transverse direction of the stack of articles) said lower individual article ejector individually pushing a lowermost article of said stack of

articles of said support into a selected one of said article shafts, said upper individual article ejector having a stack-of-articles holding-up device pushing up the stack of articles, said 20 holding-up device individually pushing a topmost article of a pushed-up obliquely positioned stack of articles to reach ~~reaches~~ a selected article shaft <sup>7.</sup> either under the force of gravity or by 22 said upper individual article ejector) said upper individual article ejector, being displaceable in a transverse direction of the stack..

35. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said stack-of-articles support with said lower individual article ejector has a vertically adjustable guide for blocking movement of the stack of articles by said lower individual article ejector except for allowing a passing of a lower individual article to be pushed out.

36. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said stack-of-articles support has a pair of stack-of-articles clamping plates with a stack-of-articles pick-up and with a transversely adjustable longitudinal individual article clamping plate for elastically clamping a picked-up stack of articles in a transverse direction of the stack between said pair of clamping plates.

37. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said stack-of-articles support is held in an essentially vertical position and has a doubly sloped angle sheet iron, wherein a said stack of articles picked up in the support is laterally fixed in

the a root of the angle sheet iron by the force of gravity and the stack of articles is supported on a bottom side either on said individual article ejector or on said stack-of-articles holding-up device.

38. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said stack-of-articles support removes and transports a stack of articles from and to storage areas, said article-handling device includes (an article-handling unit, which is movable on said article-handling device and removes articles stack by stack and transports articles stack by stack from an acceptance region, or from and to a supply bay) said article-handling unit and 5 said stack-of-articles support can be aligned and positioned in relation to one another in a vertical position, said stack of articles can be picked up by said article-handling unit and can be transferred into [[the]] said stack-of-articles support by an adjustable transverse stack-of-articles pusher.

39. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 38, wherein said article-handling unit of said bay-storage and retrieval unit has a bottom-side stack-of-articles pick-up, an adjustable longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher, an adjustable transverse stack-of-articles pusher, and an adjustable longitudinal stack-of-articles clamping plate, which has a row of spring-tensioned fingers and is located in parallel to and opposite said stack-of-articles pick-up, (said longitudinal stack-of-articles clamping plate presses in a clamped state 10 a stack of articles directly against said stack-of-articles pick-up in a transverse direction of the the

stack.

40. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein said bay-storage and retrieval unit can be displaced via a guide or rail system from and to at least one supply bay, and can be positioned at a selected lateral end of a shaft of said supply bay, said guide or rail system has switches;

Ε | a stack of articles to be handled is arranged in each selected shaft, the stack of articles reaches an aligned article pick-up of the article-handling unit by displacement of the articles in the direction of the stack, ~~or conversely the stack of articles reaches the selected shaft from the article pick-up.~~

41. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 40, wherein the supply bay is a higher-level supply bay, located adjacent said article bay.

42. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 38, wherein the supply bay is a buffer associated with said acceptance region located adjacent an unpacking station, said stacks of articles are unpacked from a collective box and are put together at said unpacking station.

43. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 42, wherein unpacked stacks of articles are put together on a stack-of-articles stacker plate, which has a

shape of a part of at least one bay level of the supply bay, 3

(said bay-storage and retrieval unit being displaceable for taking over an article by movement to the stack-of-articles stacker plate via a rail or guide system) and being positionable at this stack-of-articles stacker plate.

44. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 43, wherein said stack-of-articles stacker plate is also displaceable, or rotatable around a vertical axis with respect to the bay-storage and retrieval unit.

45. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 44, wherein a hand or foot switch is provided for adjusting a position of said stack-of-articles stacker plate.

46. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 43, wherein an automatic unpacking unit with a gripping arm is provided which grasps a stack of articles from an opened collective box and deposits the stack of articles on said stack-of-articles stacker plate.

47. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 40, wherein the supply bay has angle sheet irons arranged next to one another in planes arranged one on top of another.

48. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 47, wherein (said angle sheet irons are <sup>?</sup>[[is]] doubly sloped) and form a chute that has a rectangular cross section and is oblique in a longitudinal direction, wherein a root of the angle sheet irons <sup>is</sup>(are) located at the lowest point in each cross section over a length of the chute, and two surfaces of legs of the angle sheet irons are stop faces for a picked-up stack of articles and, furthermore, a detachable article stop is provided at a lowest end of the chute.

Σ 49. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 48, wherein a slope of the chute is approx. 20° in the longitudinal direction and a slope of a base of the chute is approx. 15° in a transverse direction.

50. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 48, wherein (a stack of articles picked up in the chute <sup>?</sup>has a longitudinal fixing aid) which presses the stack of articles against the article stop.

51. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 50, wherein said longitudinal fixing aid is a rolling cart.

52. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 50, wherein the longitudinal fixing aid is a longitudinally adjustable article stop.

53. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 50, wherein said longitudinal fixing aid is a spring-pretensioned article stop.

54. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 47, wherein <sup>?</sup> (the supply bay is a double bay, which is arranged back to back).

Σ 1 55. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein the article-handling unit of the bay-storage and retrieval unit has a [[said]] coupling pin, which can be caused to engage a corresponding recess acting as a centering aid at a selected shaft of a supply bay.

56. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 48, wherein the article-handling unit has <sup>?</sup> (a small roller stop, which can be caused to engage the article stop of a shaft for releasing or depressing the stack-of-articles stop), wherein a stop of the article-handling unit is an adjustable longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher.

57. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 47, wherein [[the]] said stack-of-articles pick-up of [[the]] said bay-storage and retrieval unit, the shaft and the angle sheet iron of [[the]] said higher-level supply bay, a buffer, and a stack-of-articles stacker plate at an acceptance region have the same designs in terms of length[[,]] and width.

58. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 38, wherein said article-handling unit is fastened via a pivot axis on a carriage transversely displaceable on a transverse rail with a slope in a longitudinal direction of a shaft of the supply bay, wherein (said transverse rail is <sup>?</sup>rigidly or telescopically fastened on a vertically displaceable lifting carriage) of said bay-storage and retrieval unit.

59. (Currently Amended) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 36, wherein said article-handling device is divided into two parts and has a separate, vertically adjustable stack-of-articles pick-up unit with a plurality of angle sheet irons of a type, position and size of said stack-of-articles pick-up and of the supply bay, which has at least one adjustable second longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher of its own, wherein (a plurality of stacks of articles can be conveyed by the stack-of-articles pick-up unit <sup>?</sup>from a buffer or from the stack-of-articles pick-up) to a higher-level supply bay, and loaded and removed therefrom; 5

a separate, vertically adjustable article bay loading unit is divided into two parts and has a vertically adjustable individual stack-of-articles pick-up with said longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher and with another transverse stack-of-articles pusher, (said vertically adjustable article bay loading unit includes <sup>?</sup>a gripping unit or stack-of-articles support) with a bottom-side stack-of-articles pick-up, a longitudinal stack-of-articles clamping plate with an angle stop and with an adjustable transverse stack-of-articles pusher as well as with the said individual article ejector, wherein a single selected stack of articles can be conveyed by said article bay loading unit from the supply bay, said higher-level supply bay, said buffer or from said stack-of-articles 10



stacker plate of the acceptance region to the automatic commissioning unit and be loaded there individually into a selected article shaft of said automatic commissioning unit.

60. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 36, wherein for loading the stack of articles into said automatic commissioning unit, (said stack of articles can be removed by said individual stack-of-articles pick-up from the supply bay in the longitudinal direction of the stack by displacement with said longitudinal stack-of-articles pusher and can be conveyed to said automatic commissioning unit and it can be positioned and individually loaded after transfer or transverse displacement of said stack of articles from said individual stack-of-articles pick-up by said additional transverse stack-of-articles pusher onto said bottom-side stack-of-articles pick-up of said aligned gripping unit or stack-of-articles support and after clamping of the entire stack of articles in said transverse direction of the stack by said longitudinal clamping plate having spring-tensioned fingers at said selected article shaft of said automatic commissioning unit by moving the gripping unit.

61. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 59, wherein said gripping unit or stack-of-articles support is fastened via a said axis of rotation to a vertically adjustable lifting carriage, which is in turn vertically displaceable on a vertical bar of said bay-storage and retrieval unit, which said vertical bar is articulated on the bottom side around at least one axis.

62. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 61, wherein said vertical bar has a shorter length than a vertical bar on which said individual stack-of-articles pick-up and said stack-of-articles pick-up unit are vertically displaceable.

63. (Previously Presented) A commissioning unit in accordance with claim 34, wherein another bay-storage and retrieval unit is provided, which is associated with a stack-of-articles stacker plate at an acceptance region;

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a buffer and/or a higher-level supply bay can be moved relative to the another bay-storage and retrieval unit and can take over or transfer stacks of articles there, wherein the another bay-storage and retrieval unit has exclusively a stack-of-articles pick-up for a plurality of stacks of articles.

~~64. (Canceled)~~

~~65. (Canceled)~~

~~66. (Canceled)~~

67. (Currently Amended) A commissioning system for a plurality of articles, the system comprising:

a plurality of article shafts arranged next to one another and one on top of another, each of said plurality of article shafts being sloped with respect to horizontal to have an upper and lower end, said each of said plurality of article shafts having a support for holding being

~~holdable~~ of a plurality of the articles;

a cart horizontally movable along said plurality of article shafts;

an article loader vertically movable on said cart, said loader having a support for  
holding ~~being holdable~~ of a stack of the articles with a longitudinal axis in a substantially  
predominately vertical position direction vertical movements of said article loader on said cart  
and horizontal movements of said cart selectively arrange said article loader at each of said  
plurality of article shafts, said article loader including an ejector movable in a transverse  
direction to said longitudinal axis of the stack of articles and individually ejecting one of the  
articles from the stack of articles in said transverse direction into a selected one of said article  
shafts.

68. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 67, wherein:

said ejector is arranged at a bottom of said article loader and moves a lowermost article  
of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said  
article shafts;

said article shafts are sloped to cause the articles to slide from said upper end to said  
lower end of said each shaft by gravity.

69. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 67, wherein:

said ejector is arranged at a top of said article loader and moves an uppermost article  
of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said  
article shafts;

a lifter is arranged in said article loader to lift the stack of articles to said ejector.